Read Jan.
C. H. M.

Theo Seminary Columbia S.C.
Dec 28th 54.

Dear Sir!

I was authorized by our Society of Missionary Inquiry to examine the Correspondence between that body and your Society which seems to have been suspended. This I proceed to do by confessing our willingness to appropriate all blame that may attach to us for past neglect and pledge more fidelity for the future.

During the last year (I believe no letters have passed between us during that interval) our Society projected and have been pursuing some new schemes of Missionary operation. First, In order to contribute to the spiritual wants of that degraded population by which Columbia is surrounded the Society has employed a Missionary a Graduate of the last Class whose duty it is to preach at such times and places as he may think necessary organize Sabbath Schools in conducting which he is assisted by Gentlemen from the Seminary and perform such other labors as the spiritual necessities of the People may require. The scheme is yet in its infancy and has not of course yielded much fruit but the prospect is encouraging. We are striving to do our part in faith & prayer and leave the rest with God.

In addition to this scheme as a Society we are conducting a System of Operations through the destitute parts of the Town
Our mode of Operating is to divide the Town into Wards to each of which from four to six Brethren are assigned whose duty it is to distribute Tracts and hold Prayermeetings together with such other labors as may be promotive of the Spiritual welfare of those hitherto neglected Classes
This Plan has been in Operation only a few months (I mean as a System of Society of course Individuals have often engaged in the same work) but we deem it very effectual for carrying the Gospel to every door and we esteem it heaven apart from the great purposes of benefitting others it is profitable to us who engage in it since it brings us in contact with various types of Mankind - gives us practical lessons in the mode of adapting the principles of Christianity to the unlettered mind and in fine it is a disciplinary school in the practical duties of the Ministry
I well know the diversity of sentiment as to the propriety of a Theological Student spending a portion of his time in any other duties than the regular curriculum of Studies but the Opinion prevails amongst us that in a union of the two (Study and limited practice) safely and profit are found We prefer to leave it with the judgement & conscience of the Student as to what extent he can participate in the above mentioned duties and labors.
Touching the present condition of the Society I observe that our number has been greatly diminished as there are twenty six (26) present in the Seminary but the causes of this diminution I will not pretend to disclose.

I presume you have heard of the anticipated accession to our Theological Faculty - Dr Palmer although regularly elected and upon now performing all the duties of a Professor has not yet resigned his Pastoral Charge. Dr Thornwell who as soon as one is elected to the Chair of Didactic & Polemic Theology has been prevented from entering upon his duties by his connexion with the College until the lapse of twelve Months we will be deprived of his services. Our Tutor of Hebrew (Mr Lawrence) is now absent from ill health. While ourselves struggling under disadvantageous circumstances we rejoice in the prosperity of your Institution and hope for the dawn of a brighter day upon us. While deprived of certain sections of external prosperity we pray more earnestly for the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit.

As a Society we must acknowledge comparative apathy in the developements of the Missionary Spirit as evinced by the fact that from the last Class there went out only one Foreign Missionary (I refer to Mr Mr Carleton who sailed in Oct for Siam) We have been addressed recently by Mr Williams a Graduate of your Seminary and also by Rev G. Leighton Wilson who has recently been on an official visit to the Indian Country. I trust such earnest appeals may not be as water spilled upon a Rock.

In closing allow me Sir! to express through you the Christian love and kindest feelings of our Society towards that of which you are the organ of Communication and respectfully ask that the long neglected Correspondence be now resumed. Expecting a favor as convenient I remain Yours in the bonds of the Gospel

John S Harris

To the Cor Sec
of
Soc of Mis Inq
Princeton N J

Cor Sec
of
Soc Mis Inq